



Photo Credit: ACS

Women and youth have an important role to play in:



Advocating for inclusion in decision-making processes.



Using influencer marketing and other innovative communication tools to raise the awareness of their peers.



Advancing innovation in sargassum product development and technology/equipment to promote effective clean-up/harvest operations.



Participating in citizen science initiatives and ground truthing activities that help to validate forecasts.



Promoting women-owned sargassum related businesses.



Photo Credit: Ulises Jauregui

TURNING THE GOLDEN TIDE: Engaging Women and Youth in Sargassum Influx Management

KEY MESSAGES:

- Women and youth are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts of sargassum influxes.
- There is a dearth of gender-differentiated data and information on sargassum impacts to support the development of appropriate, evidence-based responses and policies.
- There have been several advances in sargassum research and development in the last decade spearheaded by women and youth champions.
- Youth have been instrumental in creating sargassum-inspired music and many forms of artistic expression.
- Sargassum-kissed shores in the Caribbean have been a catalyst for innovation and may offer solutions for a sustainable and equitable blue recovery to the COVID-19 crisis.

This summary document is based on the updated UNEP-CEP Sargassum White Paper. The brief:

- Provides key messages that highlight the vulnerability of women and youth to sargassum influx events.
- Details the role women and youth play in addressing the sargassum issue and exploring opportunities.
- Highlights women and youth champions leading sargassum related initiatives and advancing innovation.
- Presents policy actions aimed at promoting engagement of women and youth in decision-making processes.

Female Innovator, Kerri-Ann Bovell



Barbadian Innovator [Kerri-Ann Bovell](#) is developing a bioplastic packaging alternative made from sargassum seaweed and starch sourced from local food waste. Her achievements to date include being a semi-finalist in the 2019 Climate Launchpad, the world's largest green business competition held in Amsterdam. She was also a top performer in the UNDP Blue Lab "Blue Tank" Programme and in 2020 her start-up EcoMycö was also selected as an incubatee in the Bloom Barbados Cleantech Cluster. Read more [here](#)

Case studies featuring entrepreneurs and researchers developing sargassum products can be found in the [FAO-CERMES Sargassum Uses Guide](#) ([click here to download](#))

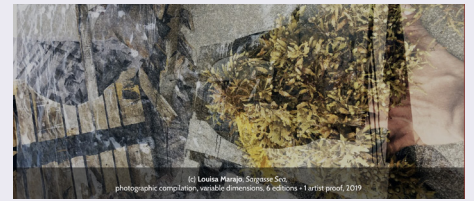
Sargassum-inspired Music and Artistic expressions



(Click on images for more info)

Guadeloupe musician Boss Papy's song- Sargasse

Artwork by French Artist Charles Moreau on 100% sargassum paper: Read more [here](#)



Project Homo Sargassum- an immersive video-exhibition project presented by the TOUT-MONDE Art Foundation, conceived and organized by Louisa Marajo and Vanessa Selk. Read more [here](#)

Policy Actions



Promote the equitable participation of women and women's groups in decision-making processes for sargassum management.



Engage youth at policy-making and decision-making levels on issues that are related to youth involvement in sargassum management and innovation.



Foster intergenerational partnerships that encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences, mutual learning, and meaningful action across generations.



Integrate sargassum science and management in related subjects in school curricula.



Appoint women and youth to decision-making organs, such as sargassum task forces/sargassum management committees, and allow leadership in the implementation of activities.



Improve the economic empowerment of women and youth in the sargassum value-chain in the Caribbean by supporting entrepreneurship and facilitating access to venture capital.



Develop gender-responsive sargassum adaptive management strategies that address influxes as a hazard and an opportunity.

Other tools and information sources

- [UNEP-CEP Sargassum White Paper 2021](#)
- [UNEP-CEP SPAW RAC Sargassum online forum](#)
- [SargNet Listserve: \[join here\]\(#\)](#)
- [Sargassum hub](#)
- [UWI-CERMES website](#)
- [Sargassum Podcast](#)



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